



News for Immediate Release
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DWR Announces Latest Snow Survey Results

SACRAMENTO – Results of the fourth snow survey of the 2005-2006 winter season by the California Department of Water Resources off Highway 50 near Echo Summit are as follows:

Location	Elevation	Snow Depth	Water Content	% of Long Term Average
Alpha	7,600 feet	97.2 inches	38.6 inches	116
Phillips Station	6,800 feet	73.1 inches	32.1 inches	114
Lyons Creek	6,700 feet	93.3 inches	33.7 inches	108
Tamarack Flat	6,500 feet	77.7 inches	29.2 inches	108

Electronic sensor readings posted today show Northern Sierra snow water equivalents at 133 percent of normal for this date, Central Sierra at 123 percent, and, Southern Sierra at 120 percent. Statewide, the percentage of normal is at 125.

According to DWR Snow Survey Section Chief Frank Gehrke, the Echo Summit snowpack examination performed on or around April 1 each year is particularly significant because it's generally considered to be that area's time of maximum snow accumulation for the winter.

"I think we could say that April 1 is the most comprehensive survey and best characterization of the snowpack for the year," said Gehrke.

Despite below average readings in the last survey, a series of March storms nearly doubled those figures in the last three weeks. In fact, water supply conditions now look so positive that just last week DWR increased State Water Project allocations to provide contractors with 80% of their requests.

In addition to today's survey information, reporters can find real-time readings of statewide

water content posted on the Internet in date order (newest at the bottom) at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/lreports/DLYSWEQ>.

The next, and last, survey of the season is tentatively scheduled for April 27, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. DWR's Public Affairs Office will issue a news advisory before the event.

Importance of Snow Surveying

Snow-water content is important in determining the coming year's water supply. The measurements help hydrologists prepare water supply forecasts as well as provide others, such as hydroelectric power companies and the recreation industry, with much needed data.

Monitoring is coordinated by the Department of Water Resources as part of the multi-agency California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program. Surveyors from more than 50 agencies and utilities visit hundreds of snow measurement courses in California's mountains each month to gauge the amount of water in the snowpack.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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